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(350) THE BUDGET  
CUBA--"PICTURE GAP"  
BY GEOFFREY COULD

WASHINGTON, FEB. 20 (AP)-INTELLIGENCE CHIEF JOHN A. MCCONE HAS BEEN QUESTIONED AT A SECRET HOUSE BRIEFING ABOUT A SO-CALLED "PICTURE GAP" IN THE AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF CUBA DURING THE RUSSIAN MISSILE BUILDUP, IT WAS LEARNED TODAY.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID MCCONE WAS "PINNED DOWN" ON THE ISSUE YESTERDAY, BUT BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS THE SOURCES WOULD GIVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR BRIEFED THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS.

THE "PICTURE GAP" IS A BLANK STRETCH FROM LAST SEPT. 5 TO OCT. 15 IN THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS MADE PUBLIC TWO WEEKS AGO IN AN EXTRAORDINARY TWO-HOUR TELEVISION BRIEFING BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA AND AN INTELLIGENCE AIDE.

IN ALL THE 60-ODD PHOTOGRAPHS FLASHED ON THE SCREEN, NONE FELL IN THE "PICTURE GAP," A CRITICAL TIME PERIOD AT THE END OF WHICH THE RUSSIANS WERE DISCOVERED TO HAVE ACTUALLY REACHED INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES THAT COULD REACH DEEP INTO UNITED STATES TERRITORY.

MCNAMARA WAS ASKED ABOUT THE GAP BY NEWSMEN IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION THAT FOLLOWED. HE ANSWERED THAT AERIAL PHOTOS HAD BEEN TAKEN A NUMBER OF DAYS WITHIN THE SEPT. 5-OCT. 15 PERIOD, BUT THAT BECAUSE OF LACK OF TIME A SELECTION HAD TO BE MADE OF WHICH PHOTOS TO SHOW ON TELEVISION.

THAT EXPLANATION HAS NOT SATISFIED SOME OBSERVERS IN CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING SOME GENERALLY FRIENDLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION.

THAT THE ISSUE IS STILL CHURNING IS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT IT CROPPED UP IN YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE WHO WAS PRESENT.

A FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY RESUMED HEARINGS ON CUBAN-INSPIRED SUBVERSION IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

ONE OF THE COMMITTEE'S NEWEST AND MOST OUTSPOKEN REPUBLICANS, REP. H. R. GROSS OF IOWA, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW HE HAS DETECTED A "PATTERN" IN THE TESTIMONY OF ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES SO FAR.

GROSS, LONGTIME CRITIC OF FOREIGN AID SPENDING, SAID THE PATTERN IS TO COMBAT CUBAN COMMUNIST SUBVERSION BY PUSHING THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS.

"THIS IS JUST A BIG BUILDUP FOR ASKING MORE MILLIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS," GROSS SAID.

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